



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 30, 2008

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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“Great Commuter Race” will show the fastest way downtown

Race begins: 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 6
Ace Hardware in Donelson Plaza, corner of Old Lebanon Pk. and J.B. Estille Rd.

Race ends: Between 7:20 and 7:45 am at Metro Courthouse Plaza at the end of 2nd Ave North

Nashville -- A bicyclist, driver, bus rider, and train passenger will leave Donelson Plaza at the same time, headed for the Metro Courthouse – who will get there first?

That’s the question volunteers will be answering at peak commuting time on May 6. The cyclist and driver can choose their own routes, as long as they obey all traffic laws, and the riders will travel on a regularly scheduled MTA bus and the Music City Star commuter train.

There’s more to consider about that 8-mile commute, though, than just the fastest time. Air quality, carbon dioxide emissions, and the relative cost of the trip are all factors in selecting the best way to get to work.

“Regardless of who wins,” says Walk-Bike Nashville executive director Shannon Hornsby, “this race will demonstrate that we now have more transportation choices than ever, and that the car is not always the most practical way to travel.”

Nashville’s 2008 “Great Commuter Race” is a joint project of Walk/Bike Nashville, the Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee, the Metro Planning Department, the Metropolitan Transit Authority, the Regional Transportation Authority/Music City Star, and the Veloteers Bicycle Club.

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Additional information:

Cost of 16-mile Roundtrip Donelson Commute

Car	\$8.64 (based on the AAA cost estimate of 54 cents per mile)
Music City Star	\$7.20 (based on a 10 ride pass)
MTA Bus	\$2.40 (based on a 20 ride pass)
Bicycle	\$2.08 (based on our estimated rate of 13 cents per mile)

Carbon Dioxide Emissions (in pounds) per Participant

Car	16 (more for idling or driving a larger vehicle)
Music City Star	3.2 (assuming the train is $\frac{3}{4}$ full)
MTA Bus	3.2 (assuming bus is $\frac{3}{4}$ full)
Bicycle	Almost 0 except for the extra exhaling.

60% of automobile pollution occurs in the first few minutes that a car is driven so reducing short car trips could greatly improve our region's air quality.

Calories Burned per Participant

Car	100
Music City Start	200 (assuming a short amount of walking is required)
MTA Bus	200 (assuming a short amount of walking is required)
Bicycle	600

Upcoming events related to this story:

Bike-to-Work Day

Walk/Bike Nashville encourages everyone to participate in Bike-to-Work Day on Friday, May 9. Walk/Bike Nashville will have ride leaders departing various locations between 6:30 and 7:15 a.m. and arriving at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center by 7:30 am. Refreshments will be served. Visit www.walkbikenashville.org for more details. Helmets required.

Tour de Nash

The 5th Annual Tour de Nash will take place on Saturday, May 17th on the East Bank Greenway by LP Field. Over 1,500 walkers and bike riders are expected to participate in 2 or 4-mile walks and bike rides ranging from 6 to 67 miles. The walk and Family Bike Rides are free, and a fee is charged for the longer bike routes. Visit www.tourdenash.org for more details.